

THE AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL UNIVERSITYCENTRE FOR RESOURCE AND ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIESANNUAL REPORT 1973

The Centre for Resource and Environmental Studies (CRES) formally began work with my assumption of the position of Director on May 14, 1973. It has therefore been in existence for less than six months, at the time of writing, and there is little to report on its achievements, rather more on its intentions.

Council appointed an Advisory Committee for CRES, widely representative of Institute of Advanced Studies and School of General Studies and containing a member of the Executive of CSIRO. This has met three times and given advice on draft budgets, staffing proposals, and research projects.

STAFFDirector:

Frank John Fenner, MBE, MD Adel., Hon. MD Monash, DTM Syd., FRACP, FRCP, FAA, FRS, Professor of Environmental Studies (from 14 May 1973)

Research Fellows:

Pamela Merrill, BA Syd., MA, PhD Calif. (expected January 1974)

M. Crommelin, BA, LLB Qld., LLM B.C. (offered appointment; expected August 1974)

Research Assistant:

A.W. Turner, BA Leeds (from 19 November 1973)

Graduate Assistant (Office of the Academic Registrar):

H.S. Littlewood, BA UPNG (from July 1973; shared half time with Research School of Earth Sciences)

RESEARCH WORKThe South Coast Project

In collaboration with the Division of Land Use Research of CSIRO work was begun on a study of land-use problems and conflicts in a coastal region of southern New South Wales (the Eurobodalla Shire). This is an area in which the traditional primary industries (forestry, dairying and fishing) are now being surpassed in importance

by the recreational use of the Coastal fringe by urban dwellers from Sydney and Canberra. A Study Group with representatives from CSIRO and ANU has been established to advise on the Project, and the two research fellows so far offered appointments (Merrill and Crommelin) will work initially on this Project.

CRES is fulfilling its role as the focus in the university for multidisciplinary studies of environmental problems by offering help (including a research assistant, Turner) to Dr O. Dent of the Department of Sociology, SGS, to undertake demographic-sociological studies in the area. It is in course of appointing another research assistant to work for twelve months on aboriginal prehistory of the area, under the supervision of the Departments of Prehistory in Research School of Pacific Studies and School of General Studies, and a third research assistant to work with Dr Hookey of the Law School on legal and administrative problems in Eurobodalla Shire. CRES also seeks to integrate other relevant studies into the project (e.g. investigations by the Department of Forestry) to the extent that this is desirable.

The Botany Bay Project

The Botany Bay Project is a multidisciplinary study of urban environmental problems in the Botany Bay Region, which comprises the southern half of Sydney. It is sponsored by the three learned academies (Science, Humanities, and Social Sciences) and is being largely funded by a special five-year grant from the Australian government. Research work on the project has been begun in the Australian National University, in the three universities located in Sydney, and in other institutions in Canberra and Sydney.

Almost twelve months before my appointment as Director of CRES I was appointed Chairman of the Botany Bay Project Committee of the three academies. Provision was made by the Australian National University for the Director of the Botany Bay Project to be offered a Chair of Urban Environmental Studies in CRES, if this proved necessary in order to secure the appointee sought. However Professor N.G. Butlin, who was appointed Director of the Botany Bay Project in August and will commence fulltime in that post on January 1, 1974, remains a Professor of Economic History in the Institute of Advanced Studies, although his Canberra office will be located in CRES.

By the end of 1973 it is expected that appointments will have been offered to three or four research fellows or senior research fellows to work in CRES on the Botany Bay Project, under Professor Butlin's direction, and CRES will also accommodate Canberra support staff for the Botany Bay Project, although like Professor Butlin and the fulltime academic staff, they will be funded by Botany Bay Project funds.

"Resources for Australia's Future"

Ten years ago Resources for the Future, Inc., produced a large book entitled "Resources in America's Future". In the context of about 1960, this looked at problems of materials resources for the United States up to the turn of the century. This work is now being updated and revised, but it has served as a valuable inventory and assessment of the resources of the United States. Australia's resources and the problems it faces in using them intelligently are very different from those of USA, but there is clearly a need for an objective and broadly based inventory and assessment of Australia's resources to be produced and made widely available. The inventory will have to draw upon existing data, but the aim of the objective assessment is to look at the detailed data for particular resources; such as each of the mineral resources, various facets of agriculture, or national parks, for example, and also at the interactions between different resources. All this will be viewed in the context of our changing population, and the changing technologies that we shall see over the next fifty years. We hope that it will be possible to collect and store the basic data in such a way that it can be readily updated from time to time, and adjusted for the unexpected technological and political changes, national and international that lie ahead.

When it is launched next year this project will be the main research activity of CRES, probably for a period of 5-7 years. During 1973 steps were taken towards the appointment of senior staff members to manage and supervise this project, but no appointments have yet been made.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

During the year I visited several universities in Australia (Western Australia, Murdoch, Adelaide, Flinders, Melbourne, and Monash) in order to investigate their present and projected activities in environmental studies. I also made short trips overseas to attend meetings of SCOPE (the Scientific Committee on Problems of the Environment) in January and October, a Summer Institute on Systems Dynamics in Copenhagen in July, and a meeting of the International Committee on Nomenclature of Viruses in London in April. On November 19 I went to USA for a six months period of study leave.

I gave two orations based on my previous work in virology, the Sydney Rubbo Memorial Oration in May and the Edgeworth David Memorial Lecture in August, and the Annual Lecture to the A.C.T. National Parks Association, entitled "Environmental Problems: Approaches to Understanding and Solution at Local, National and International Levels". I also spoke at a meeting of ANZAAS (South Australia) in a symposium entitled "The Consequences of Doubling the Population of South Australia by About 2010 A.D.", was

convenor of an ANZAAS Congress Symposium in Perth on "The Scientist, the Bureaucrat, and Environmental Responsibility" and gave the keynote address at a public seminar in Melbourne on the Port Phillip Bay Study.

During 1973 I was President of the International Committee on Nomenclature of Viruses, Chairman of the Australian National Committee for SCOPE and a member of SCOPE, Chairman of the Botany Bay Project Committee of the three Academies and a member of the Committees on the Environment, on Fauna, and on National Parks and Conservation of the Australian Academy of Science. I served as a member of the Advisory Council of CSIRO and in November reported to the Council on "Medical Research and CSIRO", and served as a member of the Australian UNESCO Committee on "Man and the Biosphere".

PUBLICATIONS

Bellett, A.J.D.¹, Fenner, F., and Gibbs, A.J.²

"The Viruses". Chapter 5 In "Viruses and Invertebrates", (Adrian Gibbs, ed.), pp. 41-88. North Holland Publishing Co., Amsterdam.

Fenner, F.

"Perspectives in Virology: 1967-1972". Gustav Stern Symposium "Persistent Virus Infections". Perspectives in Virology VIII (M. Pollard, ed.), pp. 1-5. Academic Press, New York.

"Viruses and the immune response". In Immunity in Viral and Rickettsial Diseases, 17th OHOLO Biological Conference (Alexander Kohn and Marcus A. Klingberg, eds.) pp. 7-17. Plenum Publishing Corporation, New York.

"The possible use of temperature-sensitive conditional lethal mutants for immunization in viral infections". In Immunity in Viral and Rickettsial Diseases, 17th Annual OHOLO Biological Conference (Alexander Kohn and Marcus A. Klingberg, eds.), pp. 131-144. Plenum Publishing Corporation, New York.

"Industry and the environment. A scientist's view of some of the long-term implications". Science and Industry Forum Report No. 6, pp. 49-57. Australian Academy of Science, Canberra.

"The pressure of population". Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology Lecture Series Man and his Australian Environment, pp. 15-34. Ormond, Melbourne.

"The evolution of viruses". Search 4, 477-485.

¹ A member of the Department of Microbiology, John Curtin School of Medical Research

² A member of the Department of Developmental Biology, Research School of Biological Sciences

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